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BOYS

FIND US ON



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Can I borrow a feeling?



Jacey Gibb
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Ladies and gentlemen, allow me to introduce you to Issue 40/18, our first themed issue of the *Other Press*' 40th volume.

What's the big deal? It's not like themed issues are completely unheard of for our newspaper. We ran a sex issue last summer; Christmas-related content never fails to outnumber non-festive articles during the month of December. Heck, there are some student publications that even plan a slate of themed issues at the start of every semester. We're hardly pioneers in the field, but at least we're bringing a (hopefully) original concept to the table.

Depending on when this Lettitor reaches you, a romance issue may seem a bit premature—and that's the point. The majority of folks have the week of Valentine's Day off for reading break and we're following the trend, which hopefully explains the release

date of February 4. Welcome to the "Premature Love Issue" of the *Other Press*.

As expected, we have plenty of couple-centric articles lined up for your enjoyment, including important topics such as the mile-high club, Facebook etiquette for when you're in a relationship, and at what point is it okay to say "I love you" to your significant other. The good news for the sad single sacks reading this is we also have tons of reads for people living on the other side of the relationship status spectrum. Drink recipes to make with your fellow lone rangers, ways to celebrate February 14 that don't involve overdosing on chocolate, and (for the hopeless bromantics out there) a feature by yours truly about the history and current state of bromance in the media. We have something for just about everyone to enjoy—unless you're illiterate or hate reading, in which case, why are you browsing this anyways?

The boom of romantic endeavours around the newspaper and the upcoming February 14 are unfortunately

coming at an inopportune time for me. I recently ended things with my first long-term relationship and I finally got to see what all the hoo-ha surrounding major breakups is about. For those of you who've yet to experience a breakup, my only advice to you is to continue not experiencing them. It doesn't matter if you're in a relationship, playing drums in a bluegrass band, or even just an AM signal seeping in through a car radio, breaking up is basically the worst.

But you know what I realized isn't the worst? Having a bunch of rad friends around to cheer you up and having a place like this here newspaper to fall back on in times of melodramatic misery. Unintentionally bragging here, I've always been a "the gin and tonic is half-full" kind of guy and I'm dealing my shift in relationship status the best possible way: by acknowledging it and moving on. For those of you heading into the love holiday solo, here's some advice to go with your cinnamon hearts. Give it a cry (or even give it two, if you're feeling

generous), go listen to *Beyoncé* a few times, and spend those would-be holiday dollars on something nice for yourself. Like an animal onesie.

The worst thing you can do after a breakup is find yourself thinking about the "how comes," the "what ifs," and the "boohoos." They're not doing anyone any good and you're wasting precious thought-time with your brain. The second worst thing you can do is watch the current critical darling *Her*, which is as absolutely depressing as it is well-done. If you can avoid doing both of these things, I promise you'll be in good company.

Regardless of how you feel, the world, no matter how strongly you believe the contrary, will continue to operate as it always has. I hope you all have an enjoyable reading break and I'll see everyone at the other end of the love tunnel.

So it goes,

Jacey Gibb
Editor-in-chief

The 2013 audited financial statements are available in room 1020.

Get to know us!

- ☑ The Other Press has been Douglas College's student newspaper since 1976. Since 1978 we have been an autonomous publication, independent of the student union. We are a registered society under the Society Act of British Columbia, governed by an eight-person board of directors appointed by Wand from our staff. Our head office is located in the New Westminster campus.
- ☑ The Other Press is published weekly during the fall and winter semesters, and monthly during the summer. We receive our funding from a student levy collected through tuition fees every semester at registration, and from local and national advertising revenue. The Other Press is a member of the Canadian University Press (CUP), a syndicate of student newspapers that includes papers from all across Canada.
- ☑ The Other Press reserves the right to choose what we will publish, and we will not publish material that is hateful, obscene, or condones or promotes illegal activities. Submissions may be edited for clarity and brevity if necessary. All images used are copyright to their respective owners.



This issue:

- ☑ Does dating affect academic success?
 - ☑ Disturbing the peace at Wreck Beach
 - ☑ Passengers on Air Canada flight arrested for in-flight sex
- And more!

Have an idea for a story? Let us know!

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By www.winnipegfreepress.com

Canadian veterans outraged by federal minister's antics

» Vets vow to campaign against Conservatives in 2015 election



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The Harper government is attempting to calm an uproar, after alienating one of its most reliable bases of support: Canadian military veterans.

Canadian veterans—some from World War II, the Korean War, peacekeeping operations in Africa and Bosnia, as well as those who served as recently as the Afghanistan conflict—have rallied to protest Veterans Affairs office closures across the country. The closures took effect on January 31.

The veterans had managed to schedule a meeting with Veterans Affairs minister Julian Fantino to discuss the closure of eight offices from Sydney, Nova Scotia to Kelowna, British Columbia.

Fantino, however, showed up to the meeting 70 minutes late and veterans say they felt the minister was disrespectful.

In amateur video from inside the meeting, Fantino was caught telling an agitated veteran that “this finger pointing doesn’t work too well

with me” before leaving the room.

The vets, who are being supported by the Public Service Alliance of Canada, then called an impromptu press conference, where they called for Fantino’s resignation. Some of the veterans were emotional and broke down during the press conference, leading to a public relations nightmare for the governing Conservatives.

Traditionally a reliable base of support for the Conservative Party, veterans are protesting the actions of the Conservative government, and may organize, along with active members of the Canadian Forces, to oust the Conservatives from power in the next election.

Fantino, for his part, issued an apology for his behaviour the following day in the House of Commons, but said that the government will not reverse its decision on the Veterans Affairs office closures. The apology was not accepted by the veterans.

The office closures mean that Canadian veterans, many of whom struggle with mental health issues such as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) will now have to go through Service Canada to get help and their entitlements as

Canadian veterans. The vets argue that Service Canada officials do not have the skills required to service a population of veterans who are struggling with mental health issues and were best served by the staff at Veterans Affairs.

The office closures also mean that many will have to travel several hours to get to the nearest Service Canada office.

The government says that Service Canada employees working on Veterans Affairs cases will be mobile and offer home visits, but the vets are skeptical and continue to argue that the level of care they require will not be met.

This has the potential to be a nightmare scenario for the Conservatives come the next election. Military and veterans votes are viewed by many within political circles as “a lock” for the Tories, but should the veterans organize effectively, they have the potential of swinging the balance to another party.

The veterans have not pledged to support another political party, but both the Liberals and the NDP have been vocal against the veterans service cuts.

Trudeau boots Liberal Party appointees in senate from caucus

» Political breakup consumes Ottawa chatter as Parliament returned to session



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Members of Parliament migrated back to the nation’s capital as Parliament resumed for the spring session. It is expected to be a raucous sitting, with a budget expected in the coming weeks, but only days into the session, it was the leader of the Liberal party who made headlines with a policy announcement that took the country by surprise.

Liberal leader Justin Trudeau announced on Wednesday January 29 that he was removing 32 Liberal-appointed Senators from the party caucus. The announcement came as a surprise to everyone in Ottawa, including the senators in question, who were informed in the opening moments of the caucus meeting.

The senators were asked by Trudeau to leave the caucus room and were directed to another room on Parliament Hill, where Trudeau announced that the Senators would no longer be sitting with the elected Liberal caucus.

Trudeau rationalized it by saying that the “Senate should be non-partisan” and that his caucus should only consist of those members who have been “elected by the people of Canada.”

“They are no longer part of our Parliamentary team. There are no more Liberal senators,” proclaimed the Liberal leader in a statement to reporters after the party’s Wednesday morning caucus meeting.

The governing Conservatives have called Trudeau’s move politically motivated and accused Trudeau of distancing himself from future scandals to be revealed by an auditor general report of individual senator expenses. Trudeau denies having any information about details of the upcoming auditor general’s report and stands by his rationale of having a non-partisan senate.

Trudeau also promised that, if elected prime minister, he would establish a non-partisan advisory panel that will make decisions on senate appointments, a power currently enjoyed by the sitting prime minister.

Pierre Poilievre, the Minister of State for Democratic Reform, criticized Trudeau’s plan for senate appointments, saying that it makes the process less democratic than the current practice.

“Not only would senators be unelected, but the people who choose them would also be unelected,” said Poilievre in a scrum with the media in Ottawa.

The current makeup of the upper house now consists of 57 Conservatives, 32 independent former Liberals, one independent Progressive Conservative, and six independents. There are also nine vacant seats in the senate which the Prime Minister can fill at a time of his choosing.

Liberals in the senate meanwhile are saying that they respect the move, but continue to acknowledge themselves as “Liberal senators.”

The senators in question are still permitted to be members of the Liberal Party of Canada, but are excluded from the national Liberal caucus. Trudeau says that the 32 senators will not be privy to information on Liberal strategy in Parliament or fundraising efforts for the next election, expected in 2015.

Campus couples

» Does dating affect academic success?



Cazzy Lewchuk
Staff Writer

As Valentine's Day approaches, love and dating are on many people's minds. It's very common for students to date during their post-secondary years—but romance might act as a distraction and have a negative effect on academic success, although there is not yet a consensus on the matter.

A research survey conducted in 1963 concluded that married undergraduates had a higher grade point average (GPA), although different factors in the results included the participants' educational goals, views, and satisfaction. In general, married students tended to have a more goal-focussed view on their studies. Nowadays, undergraduates are less likely to be married, although ones in committed relationships are still more likely to be goal-oriented.

Studies have shown that time management is essential for a student to fully succeed. Post-secondary students often

struggle to find time to study while balancing their other commitments; making time for a romantic companion is often a hindrance to their time management and, consequently, to academic success.

There are many conflicting viewpoints on whether or not relationships affect a student's academic progress and, if so, whether it has a positive or negative effect.

Cathy, a college graduate, says "I was engaged and then married the entire time I was in college. It really helped to have the emotional support."

Rhea, a second-year student, expresses a similar opinion, adding "Generally there's been no impact in my academic performance. I tend to do better when I've been with my boyfriend because I end up talking about what I'm learning in class with him."

Conversely, romantic relationships can act as a social distraction, or cause stress. Stanley, a lawyer, suggests that "The concept of 'dating' is always a distraction. You worry about if someone will go out with you, how things will go, etc. You're programmed to

give that a higher priority than studying. I think being in a committed relationship is more helpful than dating for your marks, unless of course it's an unhealthy relationship."

Many factors contribute to the impact that a relationship bears on each individual. Some argue that it has nothing to do with the partners or the relationship itself, but rather the student's commitment to their grades.

Asked about his academic success, Jake, a university graduate, replied "I never dated in school, and my marks were average. Dating has nothing to do with them, and everything to do with your commitment to your coursework."

Elizabeth McCausland, an English professor at Douglas College, perhaps sums it up best: "A strong healthy relationship with someone supportive probably helps success. High drama, heartbreak, or an inability to balance your time probably hurts. Or maybe not... Maybe the student deals with the bad breakup by burying themselves in their studies. Everyone handles these things differently."



By www.huffingtonpost.ca

Disturbing the peace at Wreck Beach

» Woman charged and banned from Vancouver nude beach for selling alcoholic freezies



Julia Siedlanowska
Staff Writer

A Vancouver woman has just added to her legal troubles after being charged with selling alcohol at a nudist beach.

Alana Thomson, 31, who is facing drug-related charges as well, has been arrested and charged after being caught selling alcoholic freezies on the nude beach near the University of British Columbia. The charges come after Thomson had been warned several times by Metro Vancouver park rangers, who oversee the operations at Wreck Beach.

In total, Thomson faces a total of 14 charges which, according to reports in the *Province*, include "one count of manufacturing freezies and two counts of possession of drugs, marijuana and ecstasy, for the purposes of trafficking."

According to a warrant obtained by the *Province*, a file



Alana Thomson
By www.theprovince.com

on the case was opened after Thomson's landlord, Donald Shumka reported to RCMP that he suspected his tenant of making alcoholic freezies for the purpose of selling them at Wreck Beach. The warrant also said that RCMP Const. Roger Mah, while not in uniform,

observed Thomson on Wreck Beach and saw her walking and calling out flavours of alcoholic freezies and stopping to sell them. Upon her arrest, police seized Thomson's cooler, which was reportedly filled with 50 freezies in different colours. Police were also reported to have seized over \$350 in cash.

Thomson was charged under British Columbia's Liquor Act, which according to the *Province*, "prohibits the selling and advertising of alcohol without a licence and, under Section 55 of the act, manufacturing alcohol." Thomson's lawyer, Patrick McGowan, stated in an interview with the *Province* that his client knows of some of the Crown's evidence, and is waiting for more information before she decides whether or not to challenge the charges. "It's an unusual charge," he said. "It's often a ticketable offence. This is a more aggressive approach."

The *Province* reports that Metro Vancouver park rangers had been noticing Thomson's activities since 2011, issuing written warnings, notices of violations, and municipal ticket information, according to the warrant.

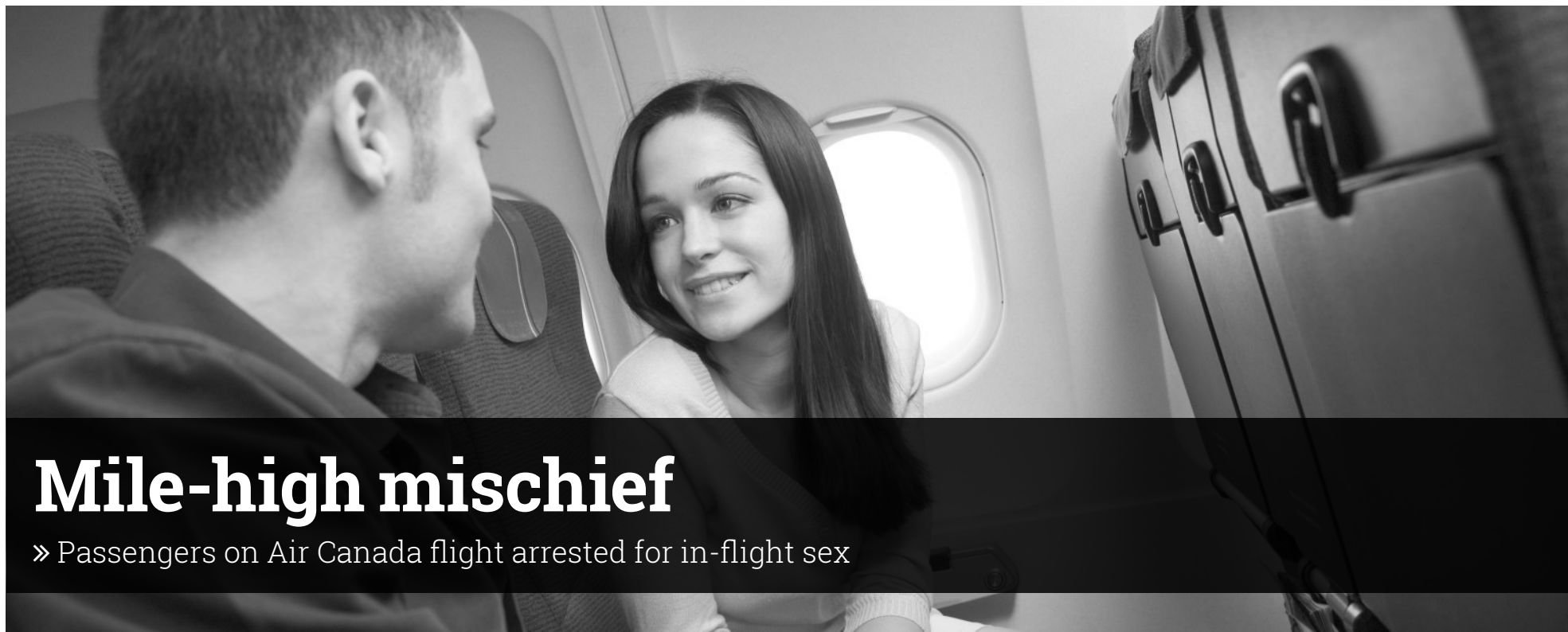
"She was fined \$100 on three different dates in 2011 and 2012, and banned each time for 72 hours, and then fined \$500 on two different dates last year and banned for seven days," said a recent article in the *Province*.

UBC RCMP spokesman Sgt. Drew Grainger stated that drug and alcohol consumption has been a major problem for the detachment dealing with Wreck Beach for the last several years. He also said that patrolling officers "have issued hundreds of \$230 violation tickets for open alcohol," at a rate of between six and 20 tickets a day.

Thomson is known and recognized in the area, and has received criticism from the Wreck Beach Preservation Society. According to the

Province, Judy Williams of the Wreck Beach Preservation Society said that "she's obnoxious, she's loud, and she didn't follow the dictates of the culture down there. There's an etiquette on the beach and you don't get in people's faces. They don't like that."

Thomson reportedly sought mentorship in starting her own business venture with the freezies. Her ideas were displayed on the website *Vancouver Entrepreneur Mentors*. "I'm looking to develop freezies that are cocktails fit for adults," it read. "Think our childhood Mr. Freeze but the contents actually being a lime margarita, strawberry daiquiri, or some other delicious cocktail us big kids can enjoy!... My goal is to get this product on the liquor shelves all throughout Canada by the summer of 2014." The profile has since been removed from the web along with Thomson's Facebook page.



Mile-high mischief

» Passengers on Air Canada flight arrested for in-flight sex

By www.whybescience.files.wordpress.com



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A 38-year-old man and 24-year-old woman from the maritimes are under investigation for allegedly engaging in sexual activity on an Air Canada flight from Toronto to Halifax on January 24.

The two individuals were approached by RCMP officers after landing at Halifax Stanfield International Airport. The woman, who has yet to be identified, was also charged with causing a disturbance and assaulting an officer as officers approached her for questioning related to the in-flight incident.

Those who engage in sexual activity while in-flight are often referred to as members of the

“mile-high club.” This type of activity is widely-regarded as one of the more popular sexual fantasies of both men and women, and its achievement is often memorable due to the risqué nature of the act.

Airline staff, in particular flight attendants and pilots, however, don’t understand why this behaviour is so prominent in the minds of some more sexually insatiable air travellers.

Elisa Choi, an Alberta-based flight attendant with WestJet, told the *Other Press* that, while this is not an issue that comes up often, sex in an airplane should be regarded in the same light as sex in a public place.

“It’s no different than having sex in a restaurant,” said Choi. “You can’t have sex in a restaurant without being told to stop.”

In-flight sex is considered to be an act of indecent exposure.

Choi also highlights that there are sanitary considerations that must be factored in.

“My first thought is ‘ewww,’” said Choi. “Airplane [lavatories] are much too small and dirty to be doing that in there.”

Choi notes that the in-flight sex fantasy, at least in her opinion, is not something airline employees think about because it is their workplace.

Choi admits to not having experienced this issue in her career, but knows of stories from colleagues and friends. When asked what she would do if faced with a couple of passengers caught in the act, she stated that every action has its consequences.

“I’d just tell them that it’s not appropriate. We would

consider it an unruly act and there are consequences to that. It’s not worth it,” said Choi.

“I’d also apologize for busting their fantasy,” said Choi with a laugh.

A spokesperson from NAV Canada, Canada’s air-traffic control authority and training school, who requested anonymity, told the *Other Press* by phone that there are other concerns with these kinds of behaviours.

“It’s dealing with people,” the spokesperson said. “Much of the time, it’s pretty straight forward, but from time to time these types of incidents lead to arguments, fights, and the endangerment of the entire flight.”

The source noted an example from years ago in which a flight in the United States had to make a premature

Those who engage in sexual activity while in-flight are often referred to as members of the “mile-high club.”

emergency landing due to a heated marital conflict, in which a man caught his wife in the airplane’s lavatory with another man.

“Never mind that it’s disgusting. When you’re at 40,000-feet, any little argument at all could endanger the lives of all passengers,” said the NAV Canada spokesperson.

Jer’s Vision sets sights on Russia



Kyle Darbison,
The Fulcrum

OTTAWA (CUP) — Jer’s Vision, an Ottawa-based youth initiative and non-profit organization, is spearheading an awareness campaign in January and February aimed at highlighting the recent signing of an anti-gay law in Russia, which criminalizes the promotion of “non-traditional sexual relations” to minors.

The movement, referred to as the “Open the Door to LGBT Rights in Russia” campaign, coincides with the beginning of the 2014 Olympic Winter Games in Sochi, Russia, which

will run Feb. 6–23. Jeremy Dias, a University of Ottawa graduate and founder of Jer’s Vision, said the overlapping timeframe is intentional and the organization is using the games as a platform to discuss institutionalized homophobia in Russia.

“This issue is really poignant because it’s the first time, or one of the first times, in contemporary society that we are seeing rights moving backwards, and I think it’s important to recognize that,” he said.

Through consultation with groups of LGBT Russians, Sochi 2014 Olympians and community activists, Jer’s

Vision was able to help produce a promotional toolkit that is available to supporters through its website. Aside from containing promotional materials such as buttons and door posters, the toolkit includes a set of instructions on how people can help eliminate homophobia in Russia.

In addition to sharing the campaign via social media and talking to your local politician, Jer’s Vision also advises to help out by writing letters to Russian president Vladimir Putin.

“It’s not overwhelming, it’s not complicated, and I think that’s part of the genius of the

campaign,” Dias said. “This is one of those times where what you do can make a difference.”

In addition to the toolkit, Jer’s Vision is collaborating with organizations like the Ottawa International Sexual Orientation Gender Identities (SOGI) Rights Network to set up events designed to open up frank dialogue about the Russian law, what it could mean for the Sochi Games and Russian LGBT communities in the future.

“Ottawa is a fairly quiet, conservative town when it comes to political action,” said Bruce Miller, one of the founding members of the Ottawa International

SOGI Rights Network.

“Getting people to come out to something that is about politics, discuss the issues and be aware of it—that would be great.”

Dias said Jer’s Vision is choosing to take a stand against Russia’s gay propaganda law without advocating a boycott of the upcoming Olympics.

“People are being discriminated against in ways that we, as Canadians, can’t imagine,” he said. “As an LGBTQ organization, we really hope that we can engage the general public in raising awareness.”

This issue:

- ☑ Comic Corner: A valentine dressed in plaid
 - ☑ Local author's latest book showcases New Westminster's rich history
 - ☑ Vagabond Players deliver laughs and lessons in 'Alone Together'
- And more!

Seen something worth sharing?

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Performing arts students bring monster to life at PuSh Festival

» 'A Presence of Monster' review



Julia Siedlanowska
Staff Writer

The Bachelor of Performing Arts degree completion program presented their collaborative project *A Presence of Monster* at the PuSh International Performing Arts Festival on January 30. Under the name "Dirty Laundry Creations," the collective of 22 graduate students from Douglas College, Capilano University, Langara College, and Vancouver Community College premiered their new work at

the Roundhouse Community Centre to an audience of parents, faculty, and patrons.

The story was based on the myth of the Silver King, which begins when a wanton king is imprisoned on the moon. Looking upon the life he left, he sheds a tear that lands on his three former lovers, killing them and leaving each of their children without a guardian. When the king sheds a second tear, his children become monsters and set forth to confront him.

This narrative is set in modern day and is punctuated by moments of interdisciplinary and multimedia art that aids in

telling the story and showcasing the skills of the students.

"It's like a quilt," said Megan de Leon Solis, a member of the ensemble. "We learned a lot about cubism, so that was a big part of the show."

This is certainly visible in the fragmented yet cohesive nature of the creation. The collective had the challenge of making the ideas of 22 students work together as one piece. Each member of the ensemble contributed through either directing a segment of the production, acting, performing through dance, costume and set design, composition, writing, choreography, or the creation of

video footage and projections.

The team did well to punctuate the dramatic myth with moments of humour. Fake news coverage with reporter Cyndi Lauper offered a contrast to some of the more serious moments.

A segment with a more serious tone that stood out aesthetically was a moment in which a masked representation of the King is silently wheeled onto the stage in an industrial-looking metal throne. The actor wears puppet hands that are then extended to grab at the poor girl at the front of the stage who repeats to herself, "It was just a dream." The

effect is obviously meant to be terrifying, and it indeed would be if the moments leading up to it prepared the audience for the switch in tone.

While there were challenges in compiling the visions of a large group of artists, the group did very well to present a whole piece of art.

"We had to learn when to push for what we wanted and when to let go," Solis explained.

In a message from program instructors David Bloom and Marguerite Witvoet, they expressed obvious satisfaction that the students "kept the artistry at the forefront and refused to be a committee."

A Presence of Monster | By www.vancouverweekly.com/supplied

Steven's Man-Cave: Still looking good, Lara

» 'Tomb Raider: Definitive Edition' review



Steven Cayer
Senior Columnist



Every year when Valentine's Day comes around, I always try to find someone special to spend it with. This year, I'll be spending it with an architecture-loving survivalist who goes by the name of Lara Croft.

Tomb Raider came out for the PS3 last March and took the franchise to a whole new level. Now the franchise gets a redo with *Tomb Raider: Definitive*

Edition for the PS4.

It includes all of the downloadable content that has come out previously. Fans of the PS3 version might be a little hesitant to fork over another \$60 for almost the same game. But if you're a huge fan like myself, you won't mind jumping back into a survivalist's dream with Lara Croft.

The main differences between last year's game and this year's are the graphics and controls. The most noticeable is definitely the graphics. Everything has gotten a slight tune-up from the island setting of Yamatai to Lara herself. Apparently she has a new face now.

Aside from the graphics, which are epic, the game has embraced the PS4 controller and its new features. You can now use the touch button to open up your map and drag your finger like it's on a tablet. As a really cool bonus, if you have either a PS4 camera or a headset, you can use many different voice commands such as "pause" or even name a weapon you have and different types of ammo such as "fire" for your arrows or shotgun.

This is definitely a game *Tomb Raider* fans should check out.



By www.pushsquare.com

Indie Analysis:

A journey through time to erase a romantic crime

» 'Braid' review

Ryan Volkman
Contributor



Have you ever broken someone's heart, and soon regretted it? Ever made a mistake so bad that you wished you could go back in time to fix it? In the video game world of *Braid*, Tim is doing just that.

At first, this game seems to be a pretty generic platform. You control Tim's movement with the left stick on the controller and, of course, the A-button is jump. However, within *Braid*, you also control time. At any period during a level, you can rewind time by pressing the X-button on the controller. Enemies who were previously eliminated will reappear, levers will be deactivated—literally everything will undo itself. At each new level, new temporal manipulations will be made available to you, keeping the experience timely.

Braid never overloads you though. Instead of making the powers cumulative, each new level discards a previous power to make room for a new ability. If you could keep all of

the powers, the game would be much too complicated.

Some of the puzzles are downright difficult! There's one optional puzzle that involves waiting for hours on end for a platform to move, which moves so slowly that it appears to not move at all. I'm being literal too—this puzzle will take actual hours.

Although complexity is nice to have in a puzzle game, puzzles like these use elements that are never adequately explained. There are only a few, but they do taint the experience when you end up looking up a walkthrough online only to find a solution no one would think of.

Yet you will almost never be frustrated with *Braid*. The time-reversal mechanic means that you can undo all of your mistakes and start over if you mess up. If you die, the game will just pause and allow you to mend your demise. There are times when a level's time mechanic can interfere, but areas can be reset when you re-enter the level, so you're never doomed. Journeying through the game is worth it too, with its colourful backgrounds.

The graphics are quite wonderful to behold. Rather than having a three-

dimensional environment, the game is portrayed with two-dimensional artwork drawn beautifully by David Hellman. It's quite a breath of fresh air to see lush settings. All too often in the video game industry there is a desire to make settings dark and gritty. The art style in *Braid* feels downright cozy.

The story is intriguing in its minimalism. There isn't a linear plot. The game drops you into the middle of events. There are six chapters, yet you start at chapter two. Chapter one is the last level in the game, not the first one playable. The only text in the game is in thick books scattered around with enigmatic messages. These say what Tim is thinking or experiencing before each chapter starts and they are not necessarily literal messages. The rest is shown throughout the game with heavy symbolism.

Number Nine Inc.'s *Braid* is available on Xbox 360 Live Arcade, PlayStation 3 and PC, and has been featured in the Humble Indie Bundle.

I would recommend this game to anyone who has an appreciation for a relaxing puzzler while also having a love for atmospheric plots.



By learningworksforkids.com

Comic Corner: A valentine dressed in plaid

» 'The Exile' review

Brittney MacDonald
Senior Columnist



The Exile is a historical romance set in Scotland during the 18th century that is based off the award-winning *Outlander* series by Diana Gabaldon. The graphic novel takes a unique approach of transitioning from literary work to narrative comic. A plot filled with romance and humour drives this intriguing and exciting novel, making up for the less than stellar artwork.

Written by series author Gabaldon, *The Exile* switches the perspective from leading lady Claire Randall to her roguish love interest Jamie

Fraser. After some time spent away, Jamie returns to Scotland with more than his share of problems. He's stuck in the middle of a power struggle between his two uncles, who are leaders of the influential Clan MacKenzie, and he has a bounty on his head courtesy of the English.

Enter Claire. She's beautiful, mysterious, and half-naked most of the time. Plus, she swears like a sailor and happens to be able to doctor any wound an 18th century Highlander could wind up with. As the pair becomes closer, their secrets are brought out in the open—including one that Claire has been hiding that's a doozy!

The change in narration between Claire and Jamie allows

Exile to be read by fans of the original series without the plot feeling too repetitive. However, enough of the backstory is explained that newcomers will be able to read and understand the graphic novel even if they aren't familiar with the original book.

Illustrated by Hoang Nguyen, many of the panels appear muddy because of over-blending and sometimes the characters appear too stiff or out of proportion. The panel layout is also a problem because it lacks any dynamics and instead appears overly simplistic.

I'd recommend this book for any friend you're trying to get interested in reading graphic novels.



By moviepilot.com

Local author's latest book showcases New Westminster's rich history

» Features family stories from past century



Cheryl Minns
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New Westminster author Evelyn Sangster Benson celebrated her 80th birthday at a book signing for her latest work, *A Century in a Small Town – One Family's Stories*, at Black Bond Books in Royal City Centre on February 1.

At the event, Benson shared some of the stories from her book, which is a collection of historical anecdotes from multiple generations of her family and relatives who lived in New Westminster during the past century.

She began by telling her stories as a schoolteacher, sharing with her students the day-to-day activities and adventures that she and her relatives had experienced over the years. Her students encouraged her to turn the stories into a book.

"I sat down and I just wrote anecdotes, incidents, what happened, how we shopped,

what we wore," she explained. "So the book is just little short anecdotes. Some of them aren't even more than two paragraphs; some of them are a page and a half."

The book reflects on growing up in different eras, including times when modern day technology had yet to be invented and the simple things in life were all that mattered.

"We always did family stuff together. We did the Sunday afternoon drive," explained Evelyn's daughter, Janet Benson, as she recalled her childhood with her parents and four siblings. "We'd go to the Fraser River and have a picnic. We thought that we were so rich because we got to do all of these things."

Janet appreciates that her family history is recorded and feels fortunate that she can look back on the past through stories and photos. She said her husband thinks she is lucky that her parents can tell her stories about her great-grandparents, because his parents and grandparents have passed away

and he doesn't know those kinds of stories about his family.

Evelyn encourages others to tell their stories while they can so that their history can be preserved for future generations.

"Just collect your stories and then put them all together. Even if it's just in your computer or just in a notebook, at least they're preserved. Otherwise they'll die with you and no one will ever hear the stories again."

She has become so inspired to write about her family's history that she has more than 80 stories ready to tell in a sequel to *A Century in a Small Town – One Family's Stories*, including an adventure the family had when they travelled to Long Beach on Vancouver Island and got two flat tires in an era before credit cards were invented.

Information about the published works of Evelyn and her husband, Don Benson, can be found at www.westminsterpublishing.ca.

A Century in a Small Town – One Family's Stories is available on www.amazon.com



Don Bensen, Evelyn Sangster Bensen, and Janet Bensen celebrate Evelyn's 80th birthday at her book signing at Black Bond Books
By Cheryl Minns

Vagabond Players deliver laughs and lessons in 'Alone Together'

» Up-and-coming cast presents quality production



Aidan Mouellic
Staff Writer

There is something uniquely special about seeing live theatre. It has a way of bringing communities together to revel in the energy of the performance, and the latest Vagabond Players production does just that.

For its 345th production, the New Westminster-based troupe is performing *Alone Together*, a play written by Lawrence Roman and directed by Dale Kelly about the shifting family dynamics when children leave the nest. The performance is predominantly a comedy, but there is a pleasant dramatic balance that makes for a well-rounded show.

The show follows the Butler parents, Helene (Gemma Martini) and George (Ross Friesen), as they embark on their first period of empty-nesting. Much to the parents' dismay though, their boys—who are based around the country—come home one by one with all their personal problems and cause enough friction to light a fire.

The performance from each actor was admirable throughout the show. Ryan J. Johnson, who plays Michael Butler, the oldest and most moronic son in the family, delivers a constant flow of comedic gems. Johnson's role in the production is by far the highlight of *Alone Together* as he consistently delivered a hilarious balance to the often serious tone the onstage parents were displaying.

Kelly, the director for *Alone Together*, is also in charge of set design and decoration for the production and has done a remarkable job. The set is well-put together for a production company with a modest budget and the design and decoration look professional. This high-class look is partly due to the artwork on set that was loaned by New Westminster resident and artist, Richard Armstrong. I often found myself admiring Armstrong's pieces throughout the performance, which are as bright and colourful as the actors themselves. Aside from the set design, the sound design done by Coleen Bignell was phenomenal. The accompanying music for the play seemed to have been pulled from my personal playlists.

This was my first time

taking in a show at the Bernie Legge Theatre—I've lived blocks away for over a decade, yet for some reason never got to one of their productions. I'm glad I finally made my way to this secluded gem in Queen's Park. It is the perfect venue: intimate, while still providing ample stage space for the actors to animate the show.

Though I very much enjoyed the show, there was one part that I feel could have been done differently: not too long into the show, the character of Michael Butler goes offstage to engage in a science experiment that results in an explosion. The simulated explosion released an odour of baking soda and vinegar mix that was quite strong for those in the front row (including myself) and didn't clear up

until around intermission.

As a whole, *Alone Together* delivers an excellent and funny portrayal of a couple's attempt at emptying their house of overbearing children. The show is aimed at a more mature audience, but younger viewers can appreciate the message of the play as well.

The Vagabond Players present *Alone Together* at New Westminster's Bernie Legge Theatre in Queen's Park until February 22. Tickets are \$15, or \$13 for students and seniors, and can be purchased at the door, cash only. Reservations can be made at 604-521-0412 or by emailing reservations@vagabondplayers.ca. For more information, visit www.vagabondplayers.ca

This issue:

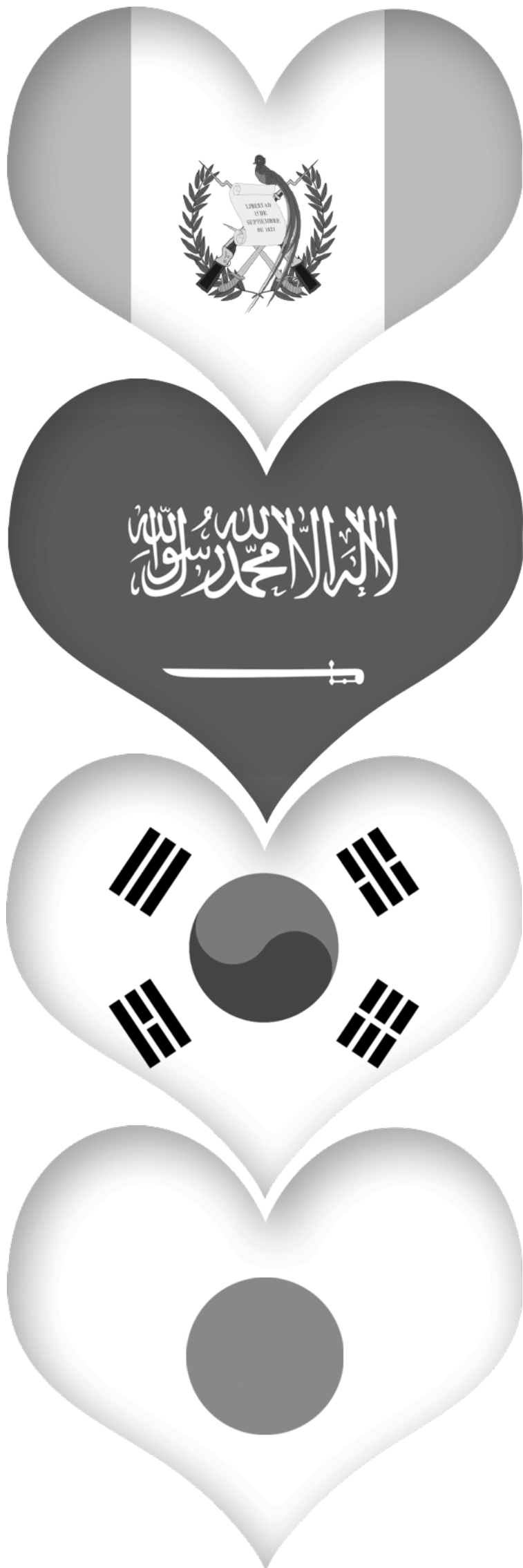
- ☑ Valentine's Day for singles
 - ☑ How to wear your heart on your sleeve—literally
 - ☑ Single and ready to drink a li'l
- And more!

Have an idea for a story? Let us know!

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Valentine's Day: International edition

» Commercialism of love is a worldwide phenomenon



Patrick Vailancourt
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Valentine's Day is fast approaching and couples the world over are planning gifts and events for their partners on a day that has become the symbolic holiday for the commercialization of love.

While it has become almost obligatory for those in romantic relationships to plan for this most mainstream of days devoted to couples, Valentine's Day is not uniform for everyone across the globe. Although we're familiar with the traditions and customs of Valentine's Day in North America, some countries have tweaked it based on cultural preferences and to incorporate this day with their already established portfolio of couples' days. Let's have a look at how some countries do things differently.

Northeast Asia

Although the romantic day in February is a North American construction, those in China and South Korea outspend any other country in terms of Valentine's Day gifts.

Northeast Asian countries such as Japan and South Korea have specific customs surrounding Valentine's Day that women here in the West probably wouldn't approve of. In Korea, Japan, and certain parts of China, Valentine's Day is an occasion in which women give their men the gift of chocolate. The one-sidedness of February 14 in these countries likely originated in the early 1960s in Japan, when an error in the translated explanation of the custom led to the widespread belief that Valentine's Day was designed for women to treat men.

Japanese candy manufacturers explored ways of making more money from similar commercial events—having recognized the one-sided shows of affection by women on Valentine's Day. In the '80s, they created a day of reply whereby men shower female loved ones with candy and gifts. Celebrated on March 14, "White Day" has become mainstream in Japan and South Korea.

Restaurants in South Korea employed a similar commercial strategy, targeting single folks. Korean singles who have not taken part in either Valentine's Day or White Day are encouraged to lunch on black noodles on "Black Day." April 14 is the day that Korean singles can mourn their loneliness. Ironically, "Black Day" has been wildly successful in recent years in bringing singles together and fostering new romantic relationships.

South Koreans have since taken to celebrating less prominent couples' days on the 14th day of each month, including Diary or Candle Day in January, Kiss Day in June and Movie Day in November.

In China, Valentine's Day as we know it is not widely celebrated due to its proximity to the Lunar New Year, but the Chinese have festivals for lovers which are deeply rooted in history and tradition.

Latin America

Latin American countries also celebrate Valentine's Day, but in countries such as the Dominican Republic, Colombia, and Mexico, patrons expand the focus of this day and express gratitude and appreciation for one's prominent friendships.

Guatemala, on the other hand, celebrates what they call "Affection Day" which has similar customs to what is established in North America.

April 14 is the day in which Korean singles can mourn their loneliness. Ironically, "Black Day" has been wildly successful in recent years in bringing singles together and fostering new romantic relationships.

Brazil does not celebrate Valentine's Day, opting for a "Lovers Day" celebrated in mid-June. Brazilians are usually coming off the high of the Brazilian Carnival, which takes place in February or March.

In the Muslim world

While the concept of Valentine's Day has been made known the world over, not all countries participate in it, and in certain Muslim countries, activities and customs surrounding Valentine's Day are criminalized.

In Iran, for example, the government passed a law in 2011 which effectively banned Valentine's Day. In Malaysia, Muslims are banned from participating in Valentine's Day. Many of these laws—such as prohibiting the sale of any item promoting the holiday—are implemented for religious reasons. The opposition to this day in the countries lies in the notion that Valentine's Day has its origins in Christianity. In 2012, more than 140 people were arrested in Saudi Arabia for celebrating on Valentine's Day.



By Cody Klyne

Valentine's Day for singles

» Alternative ways to celebrate

Cazzy Lewchuk
Staff Writer

Valentine's Day can be annoying or even depressing for singles. Those who just got out of a relationship, are looking to enter one, or who haven't been in one for a long time may end up frustrated by all the lovey-dovey stuff going on around them. However, there are many alternative ways to celebrate Valentine's Day as a single, whether you love the holiday or despise the mere thought of it.

Celebrate with a friend or family member. Many argue V-Day is a day to celebrate love of all kinds—whether that is the love of a significant other, friend, or family member. Take someone, anyone, you love

out to dinner or to a movie. You might even get a discount for the holiday (nobody needs to know he's actually your brother).

Watch themed movies. Any romantic film will do—bonus points for screening *Valentine's Day*. If the mere mention of romance gets to you, try fighting the system. Watch a bunch of slasher films, or disaster movies—anything with chaos and destruction. Really, you can't go wrong with a movie marathon.

Do something special for friends. Create or buy Valentine's cards and mail them to people you like. They don't even have to be signed. Getting a Valentine could make someone's day, and could very well be the only one they receive. Making others happy rules! Store bought cards are cute, even if it's just one with

a picture of a train that says "I choo choo choose you!"—hey, it almost worked for Ralph Wiggum.

Go out bowling or for karaoke with friends. The movies, bars, and restaurants will all be crowded with the romantic types, but having a fun night rocking out to Journey or hitting another lucky strike will be a fun bonding experience with pals. In addition, the bowling alley and karaoke bar are unlikely to have many couples.

Date yourself. Valentine's Day can be a good night for a single to have a personal romantic care night. Have a bath with fancy oils and candles. Eat chocolate and ice cream. Curl up with a good novel or something a little steamier. Self-care is important every time of the year, but can be especially helpful when

Cupid turns up to remind you that you really are your number one.

Cook tasty treats. Make a batch of cookies or a cake from scratch—or just use pre-made dough or a mix. Use the pink icing and heart-shaped sprinkles. You can share them with friends, or eat them all yourself.

Have a potluck with single friends. No couples allowed. Get everyone to bring something tasty and have a wonderful dinner party. Make it Valentine's-themed, or another crazy theme that has nothing to do with the holiday. Did somebody say "desserts only"?

When all else fails, the best thing to do is treat it like any other day and try to ignore the festivities. As a bonus, there's lots of discount candy available the next day.

The movies, bars, and restaurants will all be crowded with the romantic types, but having a fun night rocking out to Journey or hitting another lucky strike will be a fun bonding experience with pals.

Facebook Files: In a relationship megaphone

» Why Valentine's Day is the only appropriate time to go public with your relationship

Sophie Isbister
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So you're in your first college relationship. Or maybe it's your second. Or maybe your 15th (good for you)! Either way, you're in a relationship and now it's time to make some decisions. Serious matters flow through your brain, like, "What are some good cheap date ideas?" "When will I have to meet her mother?" and, possibly the most important, "When do we make this Facebook-official?"

"Facebook-official" is slang for "We're so in love we want the whole world to know—on Facebook." You probably don't notice it too much with your stable or married friends, but everyone has a few friends whose relationship status is in constant flux. These people probably just enjoy the positive attention when they put their new relationship on blast, and then, conversely, enjoy the pity when they are suddenly #ForeverAlone.

Similar to the vaguebooker, the relationship ping-ponger likely just wants your precious clicks and views in order

to validate a deep-seated emptiness in their souls, an all-consuming emotional pain that is dark like the ocean's floor and hungry like the fiery, molten core at the Earth's centre. But what about the rest of us?

Say you're not the meaningless husk of a person described above; say you're just a regular person who has found themselves in a good relationship with a strong, loving foundation. Say the relationship is going well. You've met (and been approved by) each other's friends and you've already started using cutesy nicknames. Things seem to

be going really well! But how do you know when it's time to make it Facebook official by changing your relationship status?

You want the world to know that you've found someone who doesn't make you want to go down to the petting zoo and stab goats, and that's fine—that's a perfectly normal human reaction. (The liking someone bit, not the goat-stabbing bit.) And you're pretty sure that this time it's not going to end two weeks later in gin-soaked tears. Well, you should be happy to know that I've designated February 14, or Valentine's

Day in layman's terms, the international day of expressing your love on Facebook.

So if you're in a relationship, February 14 is officially your window of opportunity to make that public. You have a little over a week to discuss this with your partner, but don't snooze on this opportunity: it's a long way around the calendar until your next chance to go public with your new relationship. Because on any day that isn't February 14, Facebook is all about Grumpy Cat, advice animals, and Candy Crush Saga: I don't want to hear anything about your love!

How to wear your heart on your sleeve—literally

» The dreamy appeal of romantic word fashion



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If you're a romantic like me, then nothing thrills you more than seeing your favourite stores transformed into a whimsical pink-and-red confection of love in honour of the day of amour. Even better? The boost in my absolute fave sartorial guilty pleasure: word and slogan-based fashion. I'm not talking T-shirts with *Family Guy* catchphrases, per se. I just love to wear a witty quote or ironic statement on my chest to show off how much I love (and love to hate) love. Here are my picks for this Valentine's Day.

Kiss, love, fuck...
Vaffanculo Bangle by Caia Jewels, \$239

Caia Jewels is a new line of jewellery launched last year by one of the most enigmatic fashion bloggers-turned-designer, Chiara Ferragni. While the jewels are certainly out of my budget at the moment, I love the way these pieces turn vulgar

ideas like love into bold fashion accessories. This "Vaffanculo" bangle is the perfect example—the Italian looks classy on the wrist, while the message is loosely translated to a succinct "fuck off." Ah, romance.

XO
Graphic T-shirt by American Eagle, \$27.77

Even if you're no gossip girl, how can you resist the sweetly simple sentiment behind this lovely tee? The classic shape, slightly loose fit, and go-with-anything grey will give this top post-Valentine's staying power in your wardrobe, whilst also showing your loved one exactly what you want to do after class.

L'Amour, sweet l'amour
Jersey bodysuit by H&M, \$19.95

Games are for kids—love is for those who can pull off a fitted bodysuit. This long-sleeved marled jersey bodysuit features a romantic scoop neckline and the word "L'AMOUR" on the front. Turns out love is cheap, too—this wordy piece is under \$20.



By Caia Jewels/H&M/AE

Single and ready to drink a li'l

» Cocktails for drinking with your single gals n' pals



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What's better than friends? Friends with drinks in hand! Show some appreciation for your pals by mixing them up a few cocktails this Valentine's Day.

Kiwi Colada — because a ki-wee bit of rum is as good as a wee bit of bum
5 peeled kiwis, divided
3 cups ice
1/4 cup light rum
1/4 cup Midori
3 tablespoons cream of coconut
1 (8-ounce) can crushed pineapple in juice, undrained
Slice up four of your kiwis into quarters, and put them in a blender. Place the remaining kiwi to the side. Add ice and the rest of the ingredients to

the blender and process until smooth. Strain the mixture through a sieve and into a pitcher, discarding any seeds. Use the remaining kiwi as a garnish for your glasses.

Pink Lemonade Margarita — because a Lonely Hearts Club isn't complete without tequila and a pinch of Valentine's Day pink
1 (12 ounce) can frozen pink lemonade concentrate, thawed
3 (12 ounce) cans of cold water, using the empty pink lemonade can
1 (12 ounce) bottle of tequila
6 ounces Grand Marnier (use the 12-ounce pink lemonade can and fill halfway)
Ice cubes
Salt to rim the glass
1 lime, sliced into wedges
Mix all of the ingredients (minus ice cubes, salt, and lime) in a pitcher. Chill in

the fridge for minimum one hour before serving, or blend mixture with ice for a frozen version. Serve, with ice, in salt-rimmed glasses with a lime wedge to garnish.

Tom Collins — because who needs every Tom, Dick, and Harry when you've got Tom Collins!
Ice
3 shots seltzer
1 shot lemon juice
2 shots gin
Mix up in individual glasses, garnish with twist of lemon



IT'S GUY LOVE, THAT'S ALL IT IS

Male friendships
in the media:

A GOLDEN AGE

or a

BAD BROMANCE?

By **Jacey Gibb**, Editor-in-chief

Photo by Maria Asselin-Roy

Rare by nature and nearly impossible to encapsulate into words, the bromance is a remarkable thing. Defined by the social bible Urban Dictionary as, “the complicated love and affection shared by two straight males,” a bromance can hit you like a brain aneurism: suddenly and without warning; no one plans on having one, yet sometimes it just happens.

As wholesome as a bromance may sound, platonic male friendships are often bogged down by gender stereotypes and niche interests; the instances of true male companionship are as celebrated as they are scrutinized. But before I dive into an analysis of modern portrayals of bromances, I suppose we should ask what is really meant when we say two guys are in a bromance. What special leap lies between simply being friends and engaging in a full-on bromance?

There has never been a shortage of close male

friendships on television. In contrast, an *Entertainment Weekly* essay titled “Where are all the female friendships on TV?” explored the question of what happened to the golden-age of girl-on-girl friendships à la shows like *Sex and the City* and *I Love Lucy*. While the piece overlooked many full-fledged and prominent female friendships populating the television landscape, its reproach of the unevenness between male and female friendships helps demonstrate just how strong the bromance sector is. From the years where *Friends*’ Chandler and Joey were the roommate combo every guy aspired to, to present day BFFs like *Community*’s Troy and Abed (who shall henceforth be known as the friendship that launched a thousand GIFs). Even this article’s title comes from the definitive bromance anthem “Guy Love,” a *Scrubs* ballad between two male best friends about, you guessed it, their unexplainable connection. There’s no shortage for inspiration on what a bromance should be, but that’s also one of the issues; for every accurate and honest representation of what real male friendships are, there’s a

bromance that crosses the line as homophobic.

So how is it that a depiction of something as genuine as a bromance can be viewed as offensive? The discrimination is in the details, as a lot of behaviour displayed in these friendships inevitably leads to queer jokes. Even the aforementioned “Guy Love” can’t steer clear of these skewed expectations surrounding two guys being close friends. “It’s like I married my best friend,” Zach Braff leads, before Donald Faison follows up with a “but in a totally manly way.” At the implication of gay marriage from Braff’s character, there comes an added clarification.

There’s no denying that the whole bromance culture has at least one foot in homophobia. Take another instance from the television show *Seinfeld*, where Jerry worries about a new friend coming on too strong after he asks Jerry to help him move. Jerry is immediately taken back, worried that the friendship is moving too quick for comfort. “He wants me to help him move... I don’t feel right about it. I mean, I hardly know the guy. That’s a



big step in a male relationship... That's like going all the way." While asking someone to help you move can be a defining moment for friends, the direct conclusion that it's the equivalent of sleeping with someone leads to an entire conversation mirroring someone being rushed into a physical relationship—ignoring the basic fact that Jerry's friend simply wants help moving boxes and furniture.

New to the scrutiny of pop culture bromances? There's actually a substantial amount of denunciation online, something I was completely unaware of when I first began researching bromances. Not everyone's prepared to climb aboard the bromance love train and fully embrace the term as a celebration of male bonding. As harmless as the word may seem, some people interpret bromance as fostering homophobia. In a 2013 Tumblr post by Queeradical, the author outlined five major criticisms against the term, saying bromances "are based on mocking and rejecting queerness," "are used to queerbait," "enforce white supremacy," "enforce cis

male dominance," and ultimately "are about asserting privilege." The post largely focusses on the atrocious "Bound 2" parody starring Seth Rogen and James Franco and accuses television shows of using bromances as a way to rope in queer viewers who might expect to see these relationships evolve romantically—something that will apparently never happen, since ostensibly "queerness is bad for capitalism." Queeradical finishes their exhaustingly negligent post with this knowledge nugget: "In conclusion, bromances are literally built on racism and homophobia by mocking othered identities for humour."

As the author's name would suggest, these are all overly radical interpretations (not sure how someone could find "Bound 3" to be enforcing white supremacy, but we'll just let opinions be opinions); but it brings attention to the fact that some people out there are unhappy with the portrayal of male friendships in the media. Of course there are going to be instances where people use the concept of a bromance to act out petty

gay jokes and masquerade stereotypes as humorous behaviour. But for every *I Now Pronounce You Chuck & Larry* and *I Love You, Man*, there's a *Wayne's World* and *Superbad* to provide an example of what genuine male friendship is all about

Let me dispel some misconceptions for you here, as a hopeless bromantic myself. A bromance isn't a bunch of "no homo" jokes strung together in an attempt to ward off speculation from other people about your sexual orientations; it's not a parody of what straight people suppose queer friendships are like. A bromance is simply a relationship where two guys are comfortable enough—with themselves and with each other—to wander outside the preconceived rubric of what male friendships are supposed to be. No longer founded on a triad of sports, girls, and beer, a bromance contains all of the ingredients that any other normal pairing would offer. In retrospect, it seems silly to even need a word specifically for a close bond between two males, but if that's what it takes for some people to understand, then bromance on.

It's you, it's you, it's all for you

» What's a victim to do on Valentine's Day?

Angela Espinoza
Contributor

"They say that the world was built for two/ only worth living if somebody is loving you" – Lana Del Rey, "Video Games"

Like any other "holiday," Valentine's Day is only as meaningful as you make it. There are certainly couples and single people alike who couldn't care less about what February 14 is supposed to represent. But if you let the feeling get to you, it does indeed suck to be single on what is essentially a national day of romance. Even worse, if your last relationship happened to involve cheaters, emotional abusers, or physical abusers, "sucks" is a bit of a light term to describe the feelings that come up when Valentine's Day looms on the horizon.

Now, it's not my intention to rip Valentine's Day away from anyone excited to celebrate. My intention for this article is to try to find some kind of light in what, for a lot of people, might currently be a difficult time of the year. For some, Valentine's Day might not mean anything. But for anyone else feeling weighed down by the visual representations of love everywhere, Valentine's Day is a little depressing.

Whether you're still in or have since left an unhealthy relationship, the feeling of love, whatever it meant to you, might have since been skewed. I'm not sure what I used to think victims of abusive relationships did after the relationship ended—perhaps most people don't think about it, since that's a dark place for somebody's mind to wander. I can't speak for anyone but myself, especially on such a sensitive topic, but I don't think I'm alone in deciding that one's early 20's are an unrealistic time to abandon all notions of romance—regardless of whatever horrible things some partner might have done to make you think that love is out of the cards for you.

There is a terribly broad range of lousy things one partner can do to another; lying and cheating are shitty, but they're not illegal. Others are a crime, like physical or sexual assault. What they all have in common is that someone has been severely hurt; their self-esteem, their ability to trust, and myriad other aspects of their lives have been damaged.

What makes the coping process all the more difficult is that it's uncommon to think that a victim of an unhealthy relationship might actually want to love or even just be sexual

again—and this being a traditionally romantic time of the year, one might be thinking, "What do I do now?"

No one, not even the great minds at Yahoo Answers, can tell you specifically how to move on from the experience (or even the person). Not to sound like a pompous ass, but this sort of process does require a great deal of soul searching. There are going to be a lot of bad days, and there are going to be a lot of good days, but, to get to the point, what are you supposed to do on February 14?

Personally speaking, I'm likely going to be feeling a little crappy on Valentine's Day, because I'm the kind of "post-shitty relationship" person who puts weight on that sort of thing. I don't recommend doing the same; I'm not insisting you seek a date if you're not ready for one, but I'm not insisting you sulk and feel sorry for yourself, either.

If you're trying to move on with your love life and leave negativity behind, Valentine's Day is just another day, albeit one with more pink and red (and couples) everywhere. The only person who matters on Valentine's Day, or any of the other 364 days for that matter, is you, and you take each of those days one at a time.

L&S LISTED:

10 best public places to

DRIT in Vancouver

What's more romantic than making love? Making love under city lights in the middle of the most romantic city in Pacific Northwest Canada, that's what! Here's the *Other Press's* top 10 list of public places to get your freak on this Valentine's Day—for when cheap hotels just don't cut it anymore, you crazy thrill-seekers. (*Disclaimer: the Other Press in no way endorses public nudity, indecency, or drunkenness.*)

1. Bathroom at Chapters on Robson
2. Bathroom at the New Amsterdam Café
3. Prospect Point, Stanley Park
4. UBC library stacks
5. Wreck Beach (bring a blanket)
6. Sunset Beach (at sunset)
7. Starlight Drive-In Theatre (in Langley)
8. Hastings Steam & Sauna
9. The boxing ring in the basement of the Astoria
10. The Night Bus



By Cody Klyne

This issue:

- ☑ What is love? Baby, don't hurt me
 - ☑ The Report Card: Holiday ins and outs
 - ☑ War of the Words: Valentine's Day meant for couples
- And more!

Have your voice heard!

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The war of blue and pink

» How gender-specific toys affect children's perceptions of the world



Julia Siedlanowska
Staff Writer

Children take cues about their assigned gender roles early on in life, and a huge indicator of these cues comes from the toy industry.

I was surprised when my sister prevented me from painting my five-year-old nephew's nails. "Daddy would hate that," she said.

My shock was in the fact that I knew my nephew at this point had no connection between gender and nail painting. It was only after this comment and further replies to his appeals to join in the fun led to comments like, "Silly, you're not a girl. Only girls paint their nails."

This is just one example of how our notions on gender form restrictions within our lives. We're attached to the belief that certain actions, patterns of behaviour, even colours have a solid and immobile place on the gender spectrum. It's a self-fulfilling prophesy.

If your son is told that only girls play with dolls, he will feel ashamed at the natural impulse to care for a human-replica. If your daughter is taught to idealize pink, she'll have a readily formed view of

femininity and what it means to be a girl.

A UK parent-led campaign called Let Toys be Toys seeks to get rid of the restrictions retailers place on children's interests by "promoting some toys as only suitable for girls, and others only for boys." The group has achieved some notable success, including persuading major retailers Boots, Tesco, and The Entertainer to remove gender specific signage in their stores. "Our 2013 survey of toyshops in the run up to Christmas showed a 60 per cent reduction in the use of 'Girls' and 'Boys' signs in stores," states the organizations website. "Twelve of the 14 retailers we've asked to remove gender signs have said they will make changes."

We should not let Hasbro or Mattel dictate our perceptions of gender and the world around us. Lego, which I remember once being gender neutral, is now riddled with advertising aimed at separating the genders. With warrior, *Star Wars*, and *The Lord of the Rings* themes, Lego is sending subtle yet powerful messages. With their "Friends" line, Lego has created products specifically aimed at girls. With purple and pink packaging, products include sets with titles such as "Mia's Lemonade Stand" and "Stephanie's New Born Lamb."

Where's Fifi's armory? Where is Lulu's spaceship? What am I going to use to kill Barbie, if my Lego set doesn't include daggers? All violence aside, it's simply illogical to place limitations on how children play. Should girls not grow up to be engineers? Does the love of building have to be restricted to a lemonade stand or "Heartlake High"? Should boys not practice their caregiving abilities on dolls and stuffies? The bear is acceptable, but why not the Barbie? Parents are often afraid of the thought that their son might grow up to be "girly," or, to use the word that they actually mean, gay. Personally, I think that the overtly sexual figure would promote other developments, but that's a whole other story.

Although I do believe that certain decisions will be made by children that show their inherent preferences, we can never know unless we give them a chance. Gendered toys are limiting the minds and hearts of children right from their very beginnings. Just as my obsession with Batman rivalled my obsession with fairies, there is enough room in a child's mind to move beyond the boundaries we impose. In the line between blue and pink—between male and female—lies creativity and innovation. Let kids roam in that space.



East meets West

» Educational differences between China and Canada

Pan Deng
Contributor

Thirty years ago, Chinese politician and reformist leader, Chairman Deng Xiaoping quoted the Chinese motto, "Education changes one's destiny." This inspired a nation to learn. Local universities began to catch up with western education; Chinese high school students were accepted into universities at home and in the West.

Chinese university education has grown a lot since those days and continues to make progress. However, after experiencing two semesters at

Douglas College, I feel that the Chinese university education scripture still has room to improve when compared to Canadian education.

The first area to note is the cultural difference. Chinese education teaches students obligation, while Canadian education teaches responsibility. As a subject of teaching, teachers should think about the objective of their lessons: is it to educate the students, or simply to get through the curriculum and textbook? If teachers take it as textbook, then students must pay attention to the information in the textbook and lectures—it's the students'

responsibility to learn. And as long as the information has been introduced by the teachers then the teachers' job is done. This is how the Chinese handle education, through students' obligation. Most of Chinese local universities, if not all, just care about how much is taught, not how much the students learn.

On the other hand, Canadian education, especially in the business program, treats learning not only as an obligation, but as a responsibility. They take care of students' futures. Even though students just open a tiny window in their hearts to learn from the

teachers, teachers will always welcome them and try to feed their needs. Students get real experience from teachers and a combination of theory and practice.

Teachers ask that students not only know, but also participate. If you don't participate, then what's the point of attendance? Chinese teachers always have big hearts as long as everybody shows up. But attendance does not always mean the students have a positive attitude toward their studies. Sometimes they can be reluctant. So only paying attention to attendance is not enough to understand the

effectiveness of the lesson.

In my first class at Douglas, an instructor told us that if you don't care then you don't have to show up. Don't waste your time, and go do something you want to instead.

This is a very mature point. Canadian teachers care more about students' growth. Normally, no one likes people who go against their opinion, Chinese teachers especially. In China, a good student means one who obeys their teachers commands. In Canada, teachers teach students to think critically for themselves. And that's more than writing down notes.



What is love? | By Cody Klyne

What is love? Baby, don't hurt me

» Maybe you're born with it, or maybe you fake it till you make it



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I'll admit it: I'm still not sure what this whole love thing is all about. I understand others' interpretations—you know, the Shakespearean sonnets, the Nicholas Sparks novels, and that scene from *Up*—but what is love, and why am I so skeptical?

I have been told that I have the same range of emotions as a well-functioning blender (nobody actually said that) and that my excitement level can often reach the point of mild elation. I'm not the kind of guy who categorizes feelings or even acknowledges them. I mean, I feel hungry, tired, and cold—but can I feel love? Is it like a chill that runs down my spine when I hear about a traffic accident? Is it like the anticipation of pain as I prepare my lips for a hot drink? Or is it just something I haven't experienced yet?

Like every other child growing up, I was taught to love my parents unconditionally. I guess I love my mom and dad, even though 90 per cent of the time they are the worst company. They gave me life and in return I offer my love. But love can't be currency, it's not something you exchange with people for goods and services and life. Can anyone put a value on love? I sure hope not. Even the thought of myself doing something for love disgusts me. I hope love doesn't collar me up and pull me along on a leash like a lovesick puppy. Then again, how do I give something that I don't even know I have? Or receive something so abstract? Where does this love thing come from?

I thought I had it before. Yes, I too have lied about my love for someone. In fact, I've done it multiple times under different circumstances. And I

can't promise that I won't do it again. The thing was, I knew I was lying the whole time, but how did *they* know? I think people can see the lovelessness in others when they lie about something like that. It's the same way people can see that I can't grow a beard or that I've been up all night. As much as love can feel like an internal thing, it seeps up onto the surface, like a woman's glow when she's pregnant, or an ailing man's cancer.

Love can be something that just happens, but I also believe that love is something we earn, like trust or respect. But how does one earn trust, respect, and love?

You can't force it—that much I know. To agonize over love is to overwater a flower, drowning the plant in your own insecurity. No, love is more like a weed: it can grow in the most trying locations, flourish with little assistance, and spread with great conviction. I remember the old saying “if you love something, set it free,” I guess that's like blowing dandelion seeds and watching them catch in the wind and parachute down. “If it returns, it's yours. If it doesn't, it wasn't.” That thought scares me, because commitment is terrifying. Love by that definition sounds so permanent, yet daunting. It leaves me feeling hopeless. If that's the case, do I even want love at all?

Of course I do. The same way I want a warm blanket, a feeling of security, and a sense of wonder. As humans, there are no greater risks than admitting that you truly love someone; to take that emotional leap of faith and to really open the seams into our souls and let another see all the turning gears that are powering us—or at least me since, after all, I am robotic. Perhaps I require some reverse engineering, or maybe my love is still up for beta testing. I'll wait. I'm not worried.



By www.scottshephard.com

The Report Card: Holiday ins and outs



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Public displays of affection, or PDA as the kids like to call it, is scornful, repulsive, and shameless; at least that's the current cultural attitude. Yes, PDA is as tactless as bragging about your good grades or wage. But why should showing your affection toward someone be condemned? Publicly displaying your affection for someone can be as inoffensive as a handshake or a hug—that is, if it's done with class.

Pass: In social settings

Why should affection be confined to the bedroom? Romance should be breathable wherever a couple goes, especially in social settings. Every couple, like every individual, is different, and generally people behave differently in public than they would alone. Obviously not every couple will be the mushy-gushy kind, but if your significant other is too embarrassed to direct any emotional or physical affection in your direction when you're with a group of friends, I would be wary.

I'm not saying that there needs to be a passionate embrace during all your social excursions, but a community that embraces the love of two people is one that will foster affection,

instead of repression. If your relationship is strong, but your friend circle constantly criticizes the loving way you behave with your partner, barriers will be created and unwritten rules will be established.

Many foreign cultures embrace PDA as if it's their birthright. European and Latin American countries are renowned for their romantic customs. It's not uncommon to walk down a promenade and see a pair locking lips and holding each other passionately. There is nothing wrong with that, and the fact that North American culture sees a problem with two people in love outdoors is a real knock on our zeitgeist. And as meaningless as it may sound, we should reevaluate our “Get a room” mindset for the sake of love.

Fail: On social media

However, Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn are not the places for you to express your love towards another user. There are other platforms out there for you to communicate intimate thoughts, but social networking sites should not be one of them. Sure, there are the dating sites like, PlentyOfFish, OKCupid, and eHarmony, but those are designated dating sites with specific purposes. Still I would imagine those who've used dating sites would also eventually move to a more private means of corresponding.

Here are the reasons why I think posting lovesick statuses, tweets, and Instagram photos are a bad idea. First off, there is something artificial about social media. It's a place where you show off the brightest side of you or a place where you vent. Facebook can often feel like one big circle-jerk, and by putting your affection online, many will see that as an attempt to seek approval. After all, it's all about getting those “likes.” Your relationship is more than just others' “likes.”

Secondly, love comes and goes, lust comes and goes, and blind infatuation comes and goes—but regrettable status updates and pictures last forever. You can delete them off the Internet, but you cannot erase your persona from people's minds. You don't want to develop a reputation as a psycho who is emotionally unstable and throws all their love successes and problems online. Facebook friends and Twitter followers aren't your real friends—they can't really help you, but they can sure troll you.

Lastly, you'll put your partner in a strange and awkward position when you post about them. There is nothing worse than seeing an enthusiastic girlfriend's status and the boyfriend with a lackluster response (oh, that'll end well). Internet personas are different and they should not be confused with real emotions. Spoiler alert: real emotions are the ones you should focus on.

War of the Words: Valentine's Day meant for couples

» Singles need to stop complaining



Cazy Lewchuk
Staff Writer

Valentine's Day was originally a Christian Feast Day celebrating Saint Valentine, who was killed for his beliefs during the anti-Christian Roman Empire. It somehow evolved into an occasion in the Middle Ages where lovers exchanged Valentine greetings to show their affection. This tradition continues today—and that's all it should be. It's meant as a holiday for couples to do romantic things, and nothing else.

Yet most of the statements concerning Valentine's Day on my social networks or said by my friends are not expressions of love for their significant others. It's mostly whining about being "forever alone" and how they plan to spend the day eating chocolate and/or sobbing. Sometimes it takes the form of a slightly uncomfortable joke—something like "Valentine's Day? You mean Singles Awareness Day?"

Nobody likes hearing

singles complain about being single. It happens all the time, not just on Valentine's Day. Personally, I feel Valentine's Day is the one time of the year when singles specifically *shouldn't* complain, because the holiday is just not meant for them. Complaining about being single on Valentine's Day is like complaining about not being Jewish on Hanukkah. The holiday is designed for a certain demographic. All the gifts sold and celebrations held are specifically meant for people who are dating.

Yes, being single can be frustrating, especially for those who've always been so, or those who've just gotten out of a relationship. Valentine's Day can be a reminder that there are happy couples around you, and you are not part of one. At the same time, I know of no one who enjoys hearing singles complain about the fact. If you must, leave the complaining to the days before or after February 14. I see Valentine's Day rants all over Facebook for weeks beforehand. Can we please at least let the lovers have the actual 14th to themselves?

I like seeing couples tell

each other why they love each other. I like hearing cute stories. Maybe it's a bit mushy, but it's nice to see that there's a little more love in the world.

At the heart of itself, Valentine's Day is a Hallmark holiday. There are no religious or cultural grounds associated with it today. It exists to sell cards and chocolate to those in love, and for restaurants to advertise deals on meals for two. It's just like St. Patrick's Day, where not all participate. However, no one complains about not being Irish on St. Patty's.

Being single can suck. I get it. Still, couples often face enough awkwardness and resentment from their jealous, partnerless friends. Complaining about not having anyone at a wedding or anniversary party would be considered selfish, tasteless, and insensitive to the newly wedded couple. Why can't we share the same etiquette for a holiday specifically designed for lovers? After all, everything will be back to normal on February 15. Then you can eat all the half-priced chocolate until your lonely heart's content—just please, please don't make another



By www.loloudly.com

War of the Words: Valentine's Day meant for everyone

» Not a single thing to complain about



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For those without a partner, Valentine's Day is one of several days that marks another point of singledom. No kiss on New Year's? No lover on Valentine's? No significant other on your birthday? Although these markers are plentiful, Valentine's Day, more so than the others, is not meant for the single-set at all; it's for the happy couples in their cocoon of love. Since the singles have 364 other days to whine, complain, and be general pests about their lack of a bedmate, can't they lay off raining on the Valentine's Day parade?

Well, this particular day—V-day—is set up to emphasize the importance of having a significant other.

It isn't dedicated to love in general, loves of all kinds, love for family, friends, and cats; the narrative of Valentine's Day is (largely a heteronormative) one of boyfriend/girlfriend, husband/wife. A man walking by with flowers is assumed to be bringing said bouquet to a girlfriend or wife. A woman frantically shopping for ingredients to cook a four-course meal is likely going to that effort for a boyfriend or husband. Chocolates, cards, presents, and grand gestures on the day of red and pink are generally centred around romantic love.

Don't get me wrong, a romantic relationship can be wonderful, but it isn't the only relationship in town that deserves some appreciation and chocolate-festooned celebration. I don't think anyone's going to dispute that family and friends are as important as a boyfriend or girlfriend.

Yet, because Valentine's Day tells one tale of affection, it's consequently exclusive. Not in a relationship? No love for you. If someone asks what your plans for Valentine's Day are, and you reply with watching a movie with friends, the reaction will likely be "Oh poor you, you don't have a person—maybe next year."

On top of this, there are obnoxiously omnipresent images of the love you're missing out on. It can be kind of a downer to go to the liquor store and see a couple purchasing a bottle of vino; to pop down to the grocery store and be bombarded with flowers, cards, chocolates, and pronouncements of love that aren't for you; to walk down the street trailing an affectionate, hand-holding couple; to curl up with your computer and scroll through status after status announcing how much partner A loves part-

ner B—pink hearts and all.

I don't think people should *want* to complain about being single. I've always felt it was better to be happily single than unhappily paired, and if you're unfulfilled on your own, the presence of a partner isn't going to change anything. But I also reserve the right to whine as much as I damn well please, especially on a day that is constructed to make me feel inferior because of my relationship status.

Speaking of which, let's turn now to my right to complain on Valentine's Day about being single, and about the exclusive nature of the day. You're telling me this day is not for me, and that I don't get to complain *because* I'm excluded from your day? "Look, I baked some cookies. Oh you want one? You can't have one. They're only for a few select people. Oh now you're complaining?"

You don't get to complain. The cookies were never meant for you." The fact that I'm excluded means that I'm justified in complaining.

Valentine's Day should be celebratory of all kinds of love. I don't have a boyfriend, but my life is made richer as a result of the men who are like brothers, the women who are like my sisters, and my actual blood relatives. Because the day is so centrally about one love only (romantic love), that means that I get to complain if I so choose—why should I be barred from a celebration because I'm not in a relationship? Alternatively, to be more proactive, I get to protest the day's exclusive nature by making it inclusive, showing appreciation for all those I care about. Either way, I'm staking claim on Valentine's Day as everyone's day.



This issue:

- ✓ Douglas beats Capilano with seconds left
 - ✓ Love and basketball
 - ✓ Host of CFL names movin' out in January
- And more!*

Know the score?

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Feeling the Blues

» Douglas women's basketball falls to Caps



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On January 31, the women's basketball team made the trip out to North Vancouver to take on the Capilano Blues. Having beaten Capilano the last time out, Douglas was looking for a repeat performance. Unfortunately, it wasn't in the cards as the Royals fell 69-58.

"We had a couple people not show up who are usually key players for us. And when that happens, it's tough to win," said coach Courtney Gerwing after the game.

Right out of the gate, it was evident that Capilano was ready for Douglas. By the time the Blues had put up 13 points, the visiting Royals had a mere two. The quarter was a difficult one for the Royals and they would come out of it down 25-16. In the second, Capilano continued to heavily pressure the inbounds pass, forcing Douglas into some mistakes

that would give the hosts seven straight. But then the Royals started to show some life. The team went on an 11-point run that got started when Nanaya Miki drained a long two. After Mackenzie Brenner collected a deep pass and took it in herself for the layup, the momentum started to shift. Some hard work from Sarah Jorgenson and Miki helped the Royals along, and by the end of the half the score was a very manageable 36-31 for Capilano.

The Royals couldn't maintain their energy in the second half though, and it was to be a forgettable one for the visitors. Jorgenson and Miki continued to put some points on the board in the third, but the squad was unable to keep pace with the hosts—a nine-point run near the end of the third quarter helping to illustrate the fact it was not to be the Royals' night. The quarter ended with Cap still out in front 53-40. Although the Royals actually put up a solid 18 points in the third with Jettie McLaughlin and Simran Bir

putting up a few, it just wasn't enough. Final score 69-58 for Capilano.

"I think we've gelled a lot more. I think we're still in it and I think lots of teams doubt us now. They came out ready to play and we didn't and that's what ultimately hurt us. But when we do come out ready, we surprise people," commented Lauren Sollero on the team's development since Christmas.

McLaughlin spoke to the team's upcoming games against Kwantlen and CBC, two squads the Royals recently beat: "I never go into anything too confident because I believe when you're too confident that's when you make mistakes, but I'm definitely excited. I think we play and match up really well against them and we're going to learn from mistakes we made last time."

Player of the Game:

#11 Jettie McLaughlin



MacKenzie Brenner // By Eric Wilkins

It ain't over till it's over

» Douglas beats Capilano with seconds left



Courtne Martin
Sports Reporter

Having dropped their last scheduled game against Douglas, Capilano University came out with a chip on their shoulder against the Royals' basketball team. But again, Douglas was to be no pushover.

"We were short players due to injuries, so it was huge having all the remaining guys step up tonight," said three-point specialist Ethan McKean, who finished the game with 16 points and six rebounds.

Douglas opened the quarter with the first bucket. From there, it was a back-and-forth race to the net. Douglas slipped early with a seven-point gap, but a few quick transition buckets later,

Douglas snuck back into the game—ending the quarter up by one.

The second quarter was a different story. Douglas struggled with the second rotation as Cap easily found the open player. The Blues found a rhythm and were determined to keep Douglas down. Douglas began taking ticky-tack fouls, allowing Cap to inch away. The Blues went up six, forcing the Royals to call a timeout. As the Royals continued to lose their footing, the Blues capitalized on every opportunity, and Douglas ended the half down 42-33.

Fresh out of the locker room Douglas brought the heat as Grant Campbell converted to tighten up the score. Capilano clearly felt the pressure and set up a full-court press with sideline traps, which Douglas struggled with the first few possessions.

After the Royals started to figure it out, however, Cap pulled out of the tough press. Andrew Baron, who tore it up on the scoreboard, was thrown a gorgeous alley-oop pass which would have been successful if Baron was not fouled in mid-air by two defenders.

The final quarter was by far the most intense of the four. Despite being down by 15 at one point in the game, Douglas was digging out of the hole they'd fallen into and got the game tight in the final frame. With less than three minutes left, Baron hit a three to tie it up. After some intense action, another Baron three with 34.3 seconds left put the Royals up one. Cap then took a one-point lead of their own with 25.8 seconds left. Then a converted Baron drive-and-dish to Ryan Hopson with only eight seconds left on the clock sealed

the game. The final score was 78-77 for Douglas.

"These guys have shown resilience all year. Some games we make a push and come back, others we come back from being down double-digits to lose by a couple points, and then there are nights where we go down and get blown out. This is the first game that we have come back from a big deficit and won it. Ryan played a good game tonight—[his] defence and toughness really helped tonight," said coach Denis Beausoleil.

Andrew Baron had another solid night, leading the way with 20 points, seven rebounds and five assists. Campbell had 13, Bradyn Norris had 11, Kristian Hildebrandt had eight point and five rebounds, and Hopson had nearly a double-double with 10 points, seven rebounds, and the game-winning bucket.



Kristian Hildebrandt
By Eric Wilkins

Player of the Game:

#13 Ryan Hopson

Love and basketball

» Captains of the basketball teams find more than love of the game on the court



Courtnie Martin
Sports Reporter

“I’ve been in love with you since I was 11, and the shit won’t go away.” For those who remember the 2000 film *Love and Basketball*, many should recall actor Omar Epps playing Quincy McCall, the heavily recruited basketball player with a promiscuous father retired from the NBA, and his neighbour, Sanaa Lathan, playing Monica Wright, also a very talented ball player. The two fall in love, venture into college together, and are looked at as a power couple.

Now, with Valentine’s Day right around the corner, Douglas College can direct its attention toward two phenomenal individuals whom resemble the core of the movie. Chloe Kennedy, captain of the women’s basketball team and one of the team’s leading scorers, found herself coaching little league basketball last year in a winter camp with the captain of the men’s basketball team, and a leading scorer as well, Andrew Baron.

One thing led to another

and the two have been inseparable ever since. The two demonstrate what it is to be a leader on the floor and still maintain a satisfying relationship off the court.

“I love Andrew’s sense of humour. He is so nice to me and everyone around him. He is such a hard worker. We both make each other better,” said Kennedy. She continued with a smile, “And he is definitely very attractive too.”

Kennedy acknowledged Baron’s efforts on the floor as a leader, and how he drives her to put forth the same effort. Baron clearly exemplifies his hard work and dedication to not only his team but his education, family, and as jokingly stated by Kennedy, his “best asset.”

On the other hand, Baron boasted what an exceptional player and person his girlfriend is and how she also contributes to who he is.

“I love her smile. She is so easy-going and I love her sense of humour. I also admire that she has a great relationship with her family. Oh, and obviously her physical appearance—she is beautiful,” Baron said.

During the season the two

manage their hectic schedules while still maintaining a very strong relationship—supporting each other throughout. On their downtime you can find both Baron and Kennedy goofing off with Maggie, Chloe’s pet rabbit. Their sense of humour clearly matches one another.

In the off-season, they spend much of their time working out together in the weight room and on the court. Of course, a little one-on-one basketball never hurt.

“Sometimes, she beats me one-on-one,” said Baron. He added, “And I don’t go easy on her; her three-ball is money.” The two also play in a co-ed league with some of their fellow teammates.

Their peers and fellow teammates look up to them and respect them both as players and individuals.

“[They] are easily respected here at the college. They demonstrate characteristics both as leaders and fun human beings. They don’t walk around with extra PDA; they just take care of business and you can see they are happy,” said Baron’s teammate, Ethan McKean.



Chloe Kennedy and Andrew Baron // Supplied

Serving up sexism

» Eugenie Bouchard answers stupid question after winning quarterfinals at the Australian Open



Julia Siedlanowska
Staff Writer

After making history as the first Canadian in 22 years to reach the Australian Open semifinals, the most burning question to ask Eugenie Bouchard must of course be who she would date, yes? With publicity already being generated by her “Genie army,” a group of adoring (mostly young male) fans, was it necessary to attract more attention to her youth and femininity?

“You’re getting a lot of fans here,” said courtside interviewer Samantha Smith, “A lot of them are male. And they want to know, if you could date anyone in the world of sport, of movies—I’m sorry, they asked me to say this—who would you date?” Covering her face and blushing like an iconic blossoming teen, Bouchard’s hesitant but good-natured reply was, “Justin Bieber?” Met with

heartly laughter and booing from spectators, she laughed and covered her face. “Okay, let’s get back to the tennis,” said Smith. Indeed.

The small spectacle was met with eye-rolling by tennis fans everywhere. While some tweeted about the ridiculousness of the question, others were outraged by the answer.

“It was bad that Bouchard just got asked on-court who, of anyone, she would date. It was worse when she said Justin Bieber,” tweeted Bruce Arthur, sports columnist for the *National Post*.

She responded to a terrible question with a predictable answer. I really don’t think that between winning against Ana Ivanovic and preparing for a match against (the now champion of the 2014 Australian Open) Li Na, she had time to consider her dating options. All possible answers aside, the outrage should really be over the question being asked in the first place. In response to an

article in the online *Courier-Mail* (Australia) one comment read, “It is extremely disappointing that your tennis coverage would involve asking such a tacky, sexist question. Eugenie is an elite athlete, not some Aussie pop tart. I hope Channel Seven is ashamed of themselves.”

With Bouchard seeming completely naïve to the ridiculousness of the question, we can easily think there is no harm done. And in the long run that may be true, but this question had no place on the court—especially not after the biggest win of Bouchard’s career. To ask a question like that at that moment was downplaying her accomplishment and allowing women’s sports to once again be trivialized.

A Channel Seven spokesperson defended the question saying, “These wonderful athletes are not robots. We try to give viewers an insight into their personalities, as well as how they hit their forehands and backhands. And Sam achieved that. She asked

Eugenie about the match, her coach’s advice, her composure, the Genie Army, and her next opponent, Li Na. And she also relayed a light-hearted question from a fan about dating—which was answered in the same spirit.”

The response sounds solid, but let the backlash serve as a warning to this poorly planned piece of sports reporting. The question should have been left to teen magazines.

While Bouchard’s win is greater than all the negative publicity generated by the incident, it nonetheless distracted from the true success of the moment. Although it’s easy to believe the question was good-natured and meant to reveal Bouchard’s humanity, the real effect is highlighting the double-standard that exists in sports. With mentions of the “Genie Army,” (and the fact that it exists at all), there is no need to further emphasize the differences between men’s tennis and women’s tennis. Although the sexualization of players occurs in male sports as

While Bouchard’s win is greater than all the negative publicity generated by the incident, it nonetheless distracted from the true success of the moment.

well (see: David Beckham and Ryan Kesler), it is largely self-induced without the prompting of the media. While the struggle for females to receive recognition in the world of sports still exists, questions like these cannot be taken simply as “just plain stupid.” Whoever was responsible for prompting this question has, consciously or not, promoted sexual stereotypes and assumptions based on gender for the purpose of attracting attention. Next time, let the talent be the real attraction.

Anthony's song

» Host of CFL names movin' out in January



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January was a busy month for the CFL: a sure-fire hall-of-famer retired, a Grey Cup Final quarterback was released, and an offensive coordinator was finally shown the door. Who says the offseason has to be boring?

Starting close to home, there were two huge stories from the BC Lions. In a move that's sure to be unpopular with the fans, veteran Korey Banks was traded to the Winnipeg Blue Bombers for non-import receiver Kito Poblah. General manager Wally Buono said of the trade that, "At the end of it, Korey was a great player for us but we're at a point in our evolution where we want a different kind of player playing that (nickelback) position and obviously we weren't ready to make a commitment to Korey for 2014. A trade was something we both agreed on." Buono has stated that the club wants to get bigger and more physical at nickelback. Since Banks has never been one to shy from contact, one has to feel that his age and salary played into the trade a great deal more than his lack of

that "bigger" physical stature. Banks leaves the Leos after an impressive eight seasons and two championships and will help to bolster the secondary of a woeful Winnipeg team that just suffered a 3-15 season.

The other move from BC is one that every Lions fan with any sense has been pushing for for years. Offensive coordinator Jacques Chapdelaine is no longer with the club. Cue celebrations in the street. With Chapdelaine and his predictable play-calling gone, there's a good chance BC will have one of the league's most prolific offences next year. It's still a mystery to many how a team that featured Travis Lulay, Andrew Harris, Nick Moore, and a multitude of other talented names could be stymied on a regular basis last season—Chapdelaine was just that bad. And it wasn't just last year either. A great deal of the Leos' success in 2012 was due to Lulay finding other ways to get things done; he won games and put up stats *in spite of* Chapdelaine, not because of him. Head coach Mike Benevides'

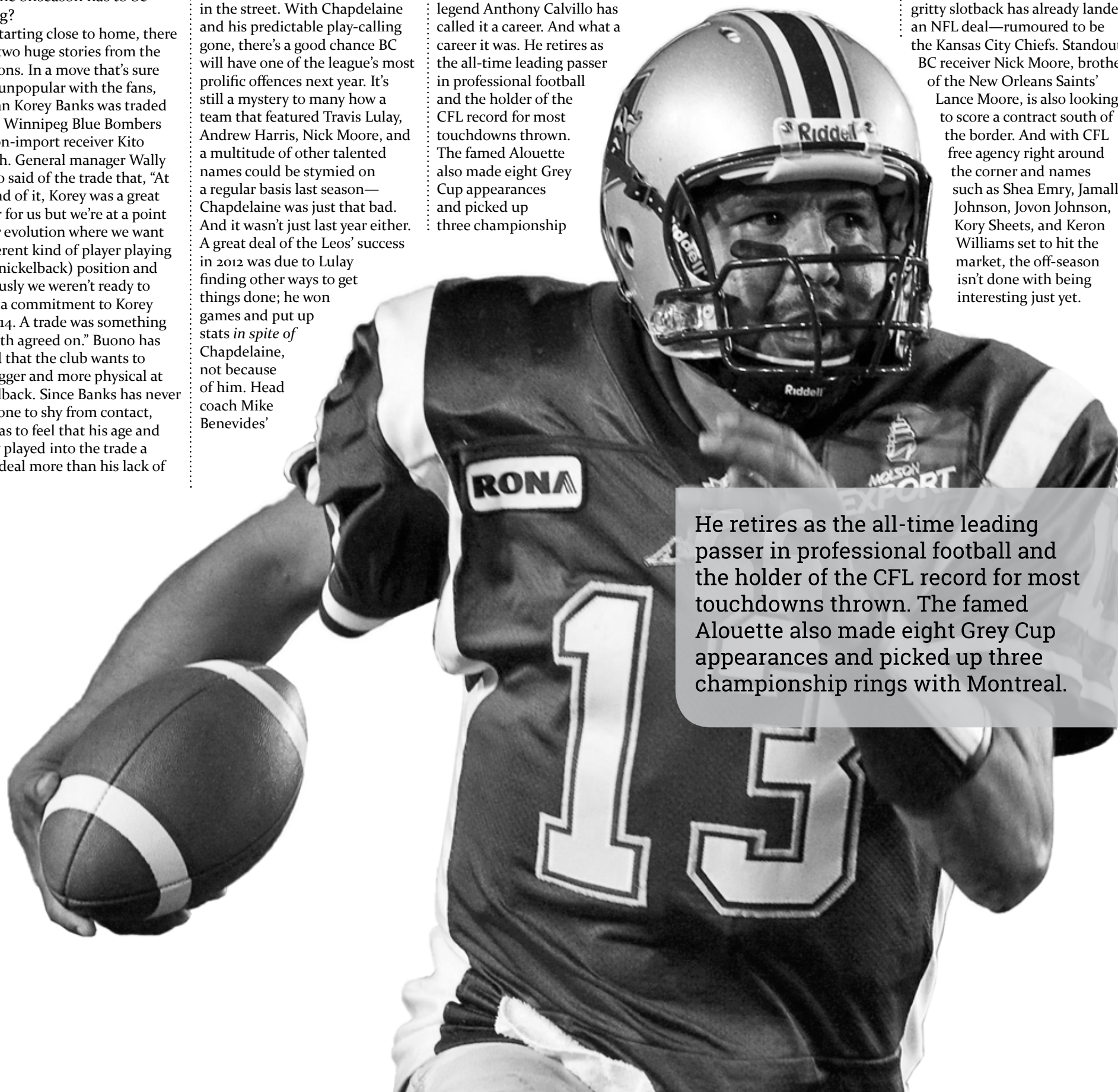
comments about the release were a great deal more complimentary than they had to be: "We understand where we are, both he personally and us as an organization. You kind of understand it's time to move on. The other thing that's critical, too, is timeline in our business. This affords him the opportunity to look at other opportunities that are out there."

Heading out east, CFL legend Anthony Calvillo has called it a career. And what a career it was. He retires as the all-time leading passer in professional football and the holder of the CFL record for most touchdowns thrown. The famed Alouette also made eight Grey Cup appearances and picked up three championship

rings with Montreal. His announcement comes as little surprise though after his season was ended in August following a hit by Ricky Foley. The contact caused his second concussion, and, at 41 years of age, the pivot decided he really didn't need to take anymore punishment. Montreal will miss him, but the rest of the league sure won't.

In other moves, the Hamilton Tiger-Cats changed up their quarterbacking situation, signing ex-Argo Zach Collaros and releasing Henry Burris. Burris definitely still has some football left in him, but the opportunity to get younger and sign a rising star at the position proved to be too tempting to resist. Also of note was the release of Weston Dressler by the Saskatchewan Roughriders. The gritty slotback has already landed an NFL deal—rumoured to be the Kansas City Chiefs. Standout BC receiver Nick Moore, brother of the New Orleans Saints' Lance Moore, is also looking to score a contract south of the border. And with CFL free agency right around the corner and names such as Shea Emry, Jamall Johnson, Jovon Johnson, Kory Sheets, and Keron Williams set to hit the market, the off-season isn't done with being interesting just yet.

He retires as the all-time leading passer in professional football and the holder of the CFL record for most touchdowns thrown. The famed Alouette also made eight Grey Cup appearances and picked up three championship rings with Montreal.



Anthony Calvillo // By www.cfl.ca

This issue:

- ☑ Behind the Laughter: Foley is funny!
 - ☑ Daft Punk stuns entertainment world by launching new talk show
 - ☑ 5 terrible 'Cosmo' sex tips
- And more!

Been told you're too funny?

Contact: Sharon Miki, Humour Editor

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www.theotherpress.ca

Behind the Laughter: Foley is funny!

» The Mick Foley interview

Jeff Allen,
Contributor

Joy, comedy, and humour don't just make themselves happen (usually)—for many comedians and performers, laughter is their product and they're sell, sell, selling it. Join the Other Press as we get to know the people and places that create the comedy we LOL at.

Mick Foley is a triple threat: a beloved wrestling icon, a best-selling author, and now, an in-demand comedy performer. Foley brings his unique brand of stand-up to New Westminster this month as part of the Northwest Comedy Festival. The *Other Press* spoke to Foley the day after a controversial WWE pay-per-view event, one that inspired him to vent his extreme disappointment with his former employer via Twitter. Prior to the event, Foley tweeted that he would throw a brick through his television if a fan favourite, Daniel Bryan, did not win the big match.

What does Mick Foley do to relax?

I don't get much time to relax. You know what I do? I'm here in my year-round Christmas room



Mick Foley // By www.productionparadise.com

and I just revamped it with some nice framed photos of the Foley family... I just got a message that TMZ wants to record me throwing a brick through my television...

[Note: Mick Foley posted a video of himself smashing his daughter's television set with a baseball bat. It has generated over 100,000 views on YouTube as of this writing.]

What's more terrifying: wrestling Terry Funk in a ring with C-4 explosives and barbed wire (Foley actually did this), or standing in front of a room full of strangers telling funny stories?

Unless a set goes really awry, there will be no late-night emergency room visits... but

up until about a year and a half ago, every night, the prospect of going on stage really did intimidate me.

It seems part of being a successful wrestler is having the ability to reinvent yourself every few years (Foley had several personas including Mankind, Cactus Jack, and Dude Love—and he played both the hero and villain). Does your foray into comedy stem from those instincts?

Yeah. The constant tweaking really did result in gradual evolutions over the years. It was always really helpful to stay one step ahead of the curve, to kind of change things up before people realized it needed changing.

How would you describe your act to someone who isn't familiar with Mick Foley?

[Laughs] He tells animated stories about interesting people that are only slightly exaggerated.

Is your set constantly being refined from city to city? Or has it remained constant, like a one-man show with set dialogue?

It's a combination of both. I found a few core stories that I revolve the show around, and then I try and add personal experiences and recent observations.

Comedy inspirations?

I remember sitting with my brother at my cousin's house in New England and finding the George Carlin *Class Clown* album and listening to it over and over. We obviously knew it was something we were not supposed to listen to. But it wasn't just "The Seven Words You Can Never Say On Television"—it was his mastery of finding humour and absurdity in the human language.

Being on the road, have you gotten to know any of your fellow comedians?

[Judah Friedlander] was the guy who took me under his wing and basically saved my comedy life by telling me—when I got off stage in New York City after doing a set that was so bad I swore I would never step foot up there again—that it wasn't as bad as I thought. And that ordinarily if a comic went four minutes without getting a single laugh, they were done, but people were actually listening,

they weren't laughing, but they were listening, and if I could find a way to make these stories funny as opposed to interesting, then I would be okay.

Is the camaraderie between comedians the same as it is between wrestlers?

Yeah, the lifestyles are so similar... one of the things we bond over is the fact that the best stories come from the worst gigs.

You're a married guy. This interview will appear in our romance issue. Do you have any advice for keeping your partner happy?

Yeah, I'll give you an example. Last night, I went outside to get the brick that I was going to throw through my television set. A spirited debate began between me and my wife. I lost the spirited debate. So I would say if you want to be happily married: a) accept that you will lose almost every argument and, b) be prepared to apologize for things you've done, even when you know they're not wrong.

Mick Foley appears at Lafflines in New Westminster February 13, 14 and 15.

BuzzFeed gets Pulitzer nod for hard-hitting list journalism

» Once simply a bunch of ripped-off cat pictures, popular website now features hard news, apparently

Liam Britten,
Contributor

Online news platform BuzzFeed's early forays into serious, investigative journalism have yielded early results at the 2014 Pulitzer awards.

The website was honoured with a Pulitzer Prize last Tuesday in the category of Excellence in List-Based Journalism for their investigative piece, "Top 14 atrocities of Central African Republic Conflict as acted out by corgi GIFs."

The article, while hard-hitting and illuminating, still managed to embed stirring prose in its adorable list of the civil war and its main players. One captioned image of a corgi puppy playing with a littermate read: "7. Seleka Rebels sure were *ruff* when they killed 18 civilians in the town of Bouar!" A photo of three corgis napping was simply captioned "3. THIS!" and was called "haunting in its simplicity" by one member of the Pulitzer Board.

Board chairman Paul C Tash was effusive in his praise of BuzzFeed's work.

"I think this may be the

most vapid article I've ever read in any medium. It lacks any real depth and glosses over one of the most complex and heartbreaking wars to haunt us in the 21st Century," Tash wrote in a statement. "But on the other hand, it was shared 47,000 times on Facebook, so it's probably pretty good."

BuzzFeed was only awarded one Pulitzer for 2014, but could have won for several other categories. It was runner-up in the category of Excellence in Polluting Facebook with Useless Tripe and was a heavy favourite for the Joyce Dehli Memorial Award for Excellence

in Shamelessly Pulling Content from Tumblr and Calling It an Original Article.

The first-ever Pulitzer win is a promising sign in BuzzFeed's quest for legitimacy. The push began in 2012 when former *Spin* Editor-in-chief Steve Kandell was hired to bring stronger, more authoritative writing to a website famous for giving dull people inoffensive content to share mindlessly on social media.

"[The change in strategy] raised more than a few eyebrows at the time," Kandell reminisced at a post-ceremony press conference. "No one

thought we could take a website that was just a bunch of stupid lists and turn it into a website that is just a bunch of lists *with* three articles about gay rights in Russia. It's a complete paradigm shift."

When asked about what BuzzFeed had in the works for next year's Pulitzer season, Kandell was rather coy.

"Believe me: our writers are already pounding the pavement to break the next big story someone else already reported on. Probably something about to do with Jennifer Lawrence and Republicans."



Daft Punk stuns entertainment world by launching new talk show

» Show set to air on MTV this spring, actual robot to co-host



Aidan Mouellic
Staff Writer

In response to their new large-scale celebrity status and the public's desire to learn more about the group following their recent five-Grammy wins, MTV has partnered with French electronic duo Daft Punk to launch a new talk show. The move has stunned fans and the public alike, since the musical duo is well known for their reclusiveness and lack of speaking engagements, and best known for hiding behind robot masks during all public appearances—supposedly to protect their personal identities.

“Having Thomas and Guy-Manuel of Daft Punk host their own celebrity talk show will be a huge opportunity for our network—and for people who want to hear these French robots speak publicly,” said Jeff Wallace, marketing director for MTV.

Considering the duo's anti-social public persona, it's a huge achievement for MTV to secure the pair for a talk show, though Daft Punk tells us that they have different plans for the show.

Guy-Manuel de Homem-Christo, one half of the band, told the *Other Press* via fax that the pair “hopes to speak to our guests on the show in the same way how we speak through our music to our fans—and that's electronically.”

When we asked for clarification, the other half of Daft Punk, Thomas Bangalter, said that “We will be in our costumes for the show and exchange our questions with our guests via text messages or Morse code messages; our voices will not be heard on television—but we might break our pledge of silence that we've lived by for so long.”

The French electronic geniuses have been wearing their famous masks for a long time now; most media outlets have quoted the pair as saying that the reason for the masks is to maintain their privacy in public, but Bangalter noted that this is categorically false. “If we didn't wear the masks, then we would have to actually make appearances, and all we like doing is making music, not making appearances—the masks allow us to send anyone, really, and it will be the same for our MTV show... we might be under the masks, or not,

depends who the guest is.”

The most recent public appearance by Daft Punk was a couple weeks back at the 2014 Grammys where they received five awards, including the top prize of Album of the Year. The duo did not make any acceptance speeches; instead members of their entourage did all the talking.



Still, the pair promises that things will be different on their show. “People were disappointed that we did not speak at the Grammy's,” said Bangalter, “but the public must understand that our masks are sound-proof, and if we speak no one would hear us, plus our visors would fog up too quickly—it's bad enough breathing in there.”

Another revelation about the yet-to-be-named show is that the show's third co-host will be an actual robot. The *Late Late show with Craig Ferguson* already has a robot co-host, but Wallace believes that the Daft Punk robot will outdo Ferguson's: “Someone at Apple has given us the newest version of Siri to debut in an animatronic hottie,” said Wallace. “She will be a sexy and sassy interactive robot that will be the perfect addition to the show.”



By **Allie Davison**, Contributor

A Big Mac won't get you laid



I am a  who [wish I hadn't] saw a 

Where: Near the Fraser

When: 2013-02-14

V-Day, last year. I reluctantly agreed to a blind date. You took me for a walk down by the river—which could have been romantic if it wasn't February and we weren't in Surrey. Finishing up with dinner at the McD's on King George wasn't exactly a crowd-pleaser. I still get texts from you, when you're drunk and lonely. Please lose my number, so I don't have to go back to the river and throw my phone in.

Thanks for ruining my macchiato, asshole.

I am a  who [wish I hadn't] saw a 

Where: Celebrities Nightclub

When: 2014-01-31

I wish I hadn't fucked you last night. I could have sworn, when we were bumping and grinding at the club, you were at least an eight, maybe a high-seven minimum. But now, waking up in your mom's basement, I realize you're really more of a two, or a low-three maximum, and I'm gonna have to coyote ugly my way outta here.

Lol Lola

By **Maria Asselin-Roy & Sharon Miki**

TEN YEARS LATER, LOLA KEEPS TRYING TO MAKE IT HAPPEN...



Brick & Derision

By Lindsey Florio & Sharon Miki



While Sarah happily chatted about the artistic integrity of Justin Bieber, Tara mentally calculated how long—realistically—it would take for her to go home, make a whiskey sour, and cuddle up with the new episode of Scandal.

5 terrible 'Cosmo' sex tips for when you want everyone involved to feel awkward

Compiled by Sharon Miki, Humour Editor





Happy
Reading Week!!

FREE Mac n Cheese Lunch

DSU

DSU Lounge NWC

Thurs, Feb. 6

11:20am- 1:30pm*

*or until food runs out

DSU Annual General Meeting * Feb 6, 2:30pm DSU Lounge



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